THE FIRST SETTLER IN HILLSBORO A Bicgraphy of John McNeel

By Eliz: beth C. Sheet

John McNeel was born in Frederick county, Virginia, in 1745, and passed much of his early life in Cumberland, Macyland.

Mr. McNeel seemed to be fond of athletics and in a contest his antagonist was badly injured. To avoid arrest and trial for murder he fled and followed the trend of the Alleghenies. A long while was spent in the wilderness without much food, causing suffering of the mind and the shape his body was in cannot be impaired by any of us. Finally going deeper and deeper into the Wilderness, he came at last in view of the Levels in 1765,

The place was covered mostly with trees surrounded by large mountains. This seemed like home to Mr. Mc-Neel and he decided to settle here. He chose a place to build his capin near the present home owned by Hon. M. J. McNeel. Traces of 11s

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This seemed like home to Mr. Mc-F. T C We ers Neel and he decided to settle here. wb He chose a place to build his cabin pei near the present home owned by Hon. M. J. McNeel. Traces of 1 is th cabin have been seen by many people fro yet living, between the gate and the th public road and his residence. If 118 this spot could be traced, it would re be well to mark it with a piece of fo marble gotten close by to show that to he was the first settler in Little in Levels District. d by ar Here Mr. McNeel prayed over his Vest ri guilt and prayed with a broken heart, ton, T. E and hunted for food, subsisting most on W ly on venison and trout. aid One day while hunting he met ead gi Charles and Edward Kennison from Kapr his old home, who had come here arpi prospecting for a situation. From ion b these men he learned that the man ad st he had been boxing with was not nty Sy killed and not even seriously hurt. roti. This was indeed good news to him, or en because he felt free from all bloody ldne stains. ck Mr. McNeel shared his cabin with lan

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SYSWIB burg and joined the expedition at s. pan ments gallon, Point Pleasant, October 10. 1774. Ask They went across the Eastern mounyour liams tain and enlisted in same company assist EE. that went from Frederick county. burg V. Va served through the Revolution and state then took up the peaceful trend of Miss 1 their lives where they had left off. the tered While Mr. McNeel was at Point Both Pleasant a child was born and died rgin lesto before his return. The mother with blic. her own hands prepared the coffin This and grave and buried it. milk To They reared five children, two er of also some and those caughters. Bachwoi, Wir these children were married and ersey tax reared large families. are gh Mr. McNeel was the first man to mo settle in Little Levels when only we al twenty years of age. Mr. McNeel cie aiso laid the foundation of the Methes of odist church and first established tal ned. Methodism in Pocahontas county. loc avis Mrs. John McNeel laid the first th a. body to rest in the McNeel graveyard br Mr. McNeel lived to be eighty years ta of age and died in 1825. m 10th of KNAPPS CREEK ta ite.